

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTON

S/S: MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230799

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT: TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT

1. TEXT OF PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT FOLLOWS FOR COORDINATION WITH MFA.

QUOTE: UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER VISITED THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON OCTOBER 30 AND 31 AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH. DURING HIS STAY THE SECRETARY MET WITH PRESIDENT MOHAMMADULLAH, PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMAL HOSSAIN. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT THIS VISIT, THE FIRST BY AN AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE TO BANGLADESH. ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 30, THE FOREIGN MINISTER HOSTED A DINNER AND CULTURAL PRESENTATION FOR THE SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER.

THE SECRETARY'S VISIT PERMITTED A CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSIONS BEGUN DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME OF THE ACCESSION OF BANGLADESH TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

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THE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE REFLECT-

ING THE WARMTH IN RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE UNITED STATES. SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION INCLUDED THE

PROSPECTS FOR WORLD PEACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, DETENTE, AND THE ECONOMIC ISSUES NOW AFFECTING ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HOSSAIN NOTED WITH PARTICULAR SATISFACTION THAT THE CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR TWO COUNTRIES WERE UNENCUMBERED BY ANY BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM.

THEY AGREED THAT THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS RECONCILIATION AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE SUBCONTINENT SINCE THE EVENTS OF 1971 IS ENCOURAGING, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION WILL CONTINUE. BOTH GOVERNMENTS TOOK PARTICULAR PLEASURE IN NOTING THE COMPLETION IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR OF THE REPATRIATION OF 241,000 PERSONS UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNHCR.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE THE UNITED STATES HAS PROVIDED DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS, INCLUDING RECENT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN DACCA COVERING FOODGRAIN AND FERTILIZER LOANS AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY DOLS 60 MILLION WORTH OF ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE AID-TO-BANGLADESH CONSORTIUM MEETING ON OCTOBER 24 AND 25 IN PARIS WAS REVIEWED. BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT THIS MULTILATERAL APPROACH IS A CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FUTURE OF BANGLADESH. THE UNITED STATES 'OOKS FORWARD TO BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE EFFORTS OF THE CONSORTIUM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BANGLADESH.

DURING THE VISIT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE SIGNED AN OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION INVESTMENT GUARANTEE AGREEMENT. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR JOINT HOPE THAT THIS AGREEMENT WILL SERVE TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE AMERICAN INVESTMENT IN BANGLADESH TO THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES. BOTH SIDES INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO FURTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND AGREED TO GIVE SPECIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERATION TO WAYS IN WHICH THIS GOAL MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. END QUOTE

2. WE WOULD HOPE STATEMENT COULD AVOID REFERENCE TO NON-BILATERAL ISSUES (E.G. MIDDLE EAST, INDIAN OCEAN) WHICH WOULD REQUIRE REGISTRATION OF DIFFERING VIEWS. KISSINGER

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